GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:495
ANSWERED ON:14.07.2014
ATS MESSAGE HANDLING SYSTEM
Pradhan Shri Nagendra Kumar

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has recently established ATS Message Handling System (AMHS) connectivity with Nepal;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the salient features of AMHS;

(c) whether operational trials are underway to establish committed international links with other countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, country-wise along with the time by which such links are likely to be established with other countries in order to enable complete operationalisation of AMHS network?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (Shri G. M. Siddeshwara)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. In line with International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), ATS Message Handling System (AMHS) has been established in India in 2011. The first connectivity was established with Singapore in March 2011. India commissioned another circuit with Nepal and regular exchange of message between Mumbai and Kathmandu commenced with effect from 2nd June 2014. Salient features of AMHS is as follows:

i) Air Traffic Services Message Handling System (AMHS) is a modern electronic messaging system replacing the legacy Aeronautical Fixed Telecommunication Network (AFTN).

ii) AMHS is based on international Standards such as ISO/IEC 10021 and ITU-T X.400 (similar to e-mail). The AMHS uses IP or ATN as a transport network and can carry bit oriented data required by modern ground-ground aeronautical data applications.

iii) AMHS has a much higher functionality (which includes Security and Directory access facilities), high transmission reliability, virtually unlimited length of textual messages and the messages can carry any kind of digital information, including text, graphics, images, files, databases, audio and video.

iv) AMHS system comprises of Message Transfer Agent, Message Store and User Agents to process the message on store and forward principle.

(c) & (d): Yes Madam. Details in this regard is at Annexure.